



Afternoon Alert - Monday, April 3, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report that the LDP and Komeito agreed to begin deliberations on the anti-conspiracy law on Thursday.

TV Asahi gave top play to a report that President Trump said in an interview with a British media outlet that the U.S. will act unilaterally on North Korea if China chooses not to act. The network speculated that the President will urge China to increase pressure on North Korea during the upcoming U.S.-China summit. All other networks carried similar reports.

NTV and TBS led with reports that one week has passed since the deadly avalanche accident in Tochigi Prefecture. Fuji TV reported on ceremonies held today at companies throughout Japan to welcome new employees.

INTERNATIONAL

Japanese ambassador to South Korea to return to Seoul tomorrow

NHK reported this afternoon that Foreign Minister Kishida announced today that Japanese Ambassador to South Korea Nagamine, who was recalled to Japan in January, will return to Seoul on April 4. Kishida was quoted as saying: "We decided to return Ambassador to South Korea Nagamine to Seoul tomorrow. This decision was made due to the need to be well-prepared for and collect information on South Korea's new administration in view of the planned presidential election on May 9 following the arrest of former President Park. Secondly, we need to enhance information sharing between the U.S., Japan, and South Korea over the North Korea issue and closely

cooperate with South Korea on the matter. In addition, on the comfort women statue issue, we lodged a protest with the South Korean government through a diplomatic channel and urged the nation to abide by the Japan-ROK agreement, but we have seen no results. Therefore, we want Ambassador Nagamine to directly urge Acting President Hwang Kyo-ahn to abide by the agreement. We made the decision based on these matters and also based on the viewpoint of protecting Japanese citizens in South Korea."

- [Ross to attend U.S.-Japan economic dialogue in Tokyo in April](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, China growing increasingly wary of U.S. protectionism](#) (Mainichi)
- [No need for Japan to hastily send new ambassador to South Korea](#) (THEMIS)
- [Taiwan seeks pact with Japan on scientific research in disputed waters](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gov't plans to organize first-ever DPRK abductions symposium at EU headquarters](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: It's hard even for Japan to join unrealistic N-arms ban treaty talks](#) (The Japan News)

SECURITY

New Okinawa official in charge of base issues determined to oppose Futenma relocation

Ryukyu Shimpo ran an interview with Katsuhiro Yoshida, who assumed the post of policy coordinator in charge of base issues at the Okinawa Prefectural Government on April 1. Yoshida told the paper that he is determined to remove the Futenma functions from Okinawa, prevent a new base from being constructed at Henoko, remove the MV-22 Ospreys from Okinawa, and seek revisions to the SOFA. The new policy coordinator stated: "The security arrangements between the U.S. and Japan will be undermined if too much pressure is put on Okinawa. A new campaign against Kadena AB might be launched. Okinawa may have to do something that will make the U.S. military feel afraid. We need to tell the people of the U.S. and all over Japan that we are angry." He went on to say: "The idea of the governor visiting the U.S. is fine. But it is also important to invite journalists from major international news organizations to visit Okinawa and see the situation in Okinawa firsthand. I would also like to urge the ambassadors at foreign embassies in Tokyo to come and see the situation in Okinawa." In a separate interview with Okinawa Times, Yoshida expressed readiness to hold patient discussions with the GOJ, the U.S. military, and local governments to deliver on Governor Onaga's campaign pledge to prevent the base construction at Henoko.

Two U.S. service members in Okinawa arrested for DUI

Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times reported on the separate arrests of two U.S. service members in Okinawa for allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI). A sailor belonging to the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa was arrested on Saturday on suspicion of violating the Road Traffic Law by driving under the influence of alcohol at around 8:35 am in Ginowan on Saturday. The police suspect that the suspect rear-ended a motorcycle, slightly injuring the rider. A corporal at Fort Buckner Army Base was separately arrested also for DUI around 6:10 a.m. in Chatan on Sunday.

- [Henoko bank work possible in mid-April](#) (The Japan News)
- [Protesters mark 1,000th day of sit-in near U.S. base in Okinawa](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Osamu Unten appointed as new chief of Okinawa's Washington office](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [Rally held in Saga to protest GSDF deployment of Ospreys](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [Govt considering development of hack-proof satellite system](#) (The Japan News)
- [Gov't to partially finance security costs for Olympics](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan to enhance airport security with more cameras ahead of Olympics](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Arming SDF to attack enemy runs counter to defense policy](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Japan's automakers to cooperate on cybersecurity of connected cars](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on April 2](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on April 1](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on March 31](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Abe government dodging core questions in school scandal](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [DP's pursuit of next possible scandal involving PM Abe could stir up a hornet's nest](#) (THEMIS)

- [Communist Party newspaper resumes using imperial era name in dates](#) (Yomiuri)

OPINION POLLS

[Support for Abe cabinet drops for third consecutive month](#)

TBS reported at noon on the results of its weekend opinion poll, which showed that public approval for the Abe cabinet fell for the third consecutive month to 57.0%, down 4 points from last month, while disapproval rose 3.3 points to 40.6%. Regarding the government's explanation on the Moritomo Gakuen scandal, 74% of respondents said they are not satisfied with it, while 14% said they are. On Defense Minister Inada's handling of the issue of the daily activity logs kept by GSDF troops in South Sudan, 50% said she should resign, while 36% said she doesn't need to.

- [Record 65.9% of Japanese satisfied with state of Japan today, gov't survey](#) (Sankei)
- [27% of major companies will increase hiring of new university graduates, Kyodo News poll](#) (Mainichi)

ECONOMY

[Trump's economic policies and the future of capitalism](#)

"NHK Special" reported on President Trump's economic policies and the future of capitalism, saying that the global market economy has entered a new stage with the inauguration of President Trump. The program said there are growing concerns that U.S. protectionism may affect the flow of the global economy. The program said while some economists point out that the global economy will face unprecedented uncertainty if President Trump implements his economic policies, including imposing border tax, reducing taxes, and increasing infrastructure investment, while others point out that global capitalism has reached its limit and that Trump's economic policies will actually be good for the global economy. The program aired a discussion between a comedy duo called "Bakusho Mondai" and economists on President Trump's economic policies and how Japan should try to benefit from them.

- [METI to create new "legal officer" post to deal with trade disputes](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japanese Bankers Association chief concerned about President Trump's policy implementation](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan to urge businesses to share big data](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Pratt, 3 Japanese partners to make engines for mid-range jetliners](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [**METI to draft development schedule for fast breeder reactor**](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [**Editorial: Long, arduous path lies ahead for Toshiba to reconstruct its business**](#) (The Japan News)
- [**Editorial: Toshiba debacle highlights huge risks in nuclear power business**](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [**Tight Japanese labor market constricting growth**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [**60% of new utilities object to helping pay Fukushima compensation**](#) (Kyodo News)
- [**Tepeco's reformist new leadership must confront enemy within**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [**Japan Inc.'s overseas acquisitions hit record**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [**Startups compete to develop self-driving technology**](#) (Asahi)

EDUCATION

- [**Number of foreign students in Japan jumps nearly 15% in 2016**](#) (Kyodo News)

SOCIETY

Children's book author Nobue Kai

"NHK Special" featured Nobue Kai, a 68-year-old children's book author living in Kyoto. She has been writing books on plants and wildflowers for more than 60 years. The program followed her as she walked out into the fields and "communicated" with the plants.

Experts discuss Japan's long-term care insurance for elderly

On NHK's "Nichiyō Toron" Sunday debate show, six experts discussed Japan's long-term care insurance, focusing on how to provide better care for the aging population. Japan launched the long-term care insurance system in 2000 to provide long-term care for people over 65. The system is funded by compulsory premiums for all those over the age of 40 and by national and local taxation. The GOJ submitted legislation to the current Diet session that would increase users' payments from the current 20% to 30% of the cost of care. The panelists who support the legislation argued that such changes are necessary to sustain the system, but the opponents said the revision would increase the burden on patients.

- [**Elderly comprise 70% of parents who kill children with disorders**](#) (The Japan News)

- [Gov't to crack down on forced performance in porn](#) (Kyodo News)

